

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00139 041054Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

L-02 /063 W

----- 018241

R 040907Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO USS JOSEPH HEWES

INFO USS TRIPPE

COMIDEASTFORCE

USCINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA

CNO WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 3234

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI AO

SUBJECT: PORT VISIT TO MOCAMEDES

1. I UNDERSTAND FROM OUR EMPLOYEE WHO COORDINATED THE VISIT TO MOCAMEDES THAT THERE WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER LEAVE AND THE PAYMENT FOR BUS TO HAVE BEEN USED TO TRANSPORT THE CREW FROM THE DOCKS TO MOCAMEDES.

2. IN LUANDA'S 114 AND PREVIOUS WE EXPLAINED THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JANUARY 31 FOR ANGOLANS. IN COORDINATION WITH THE PORTUGUESE NAVY HERE WE ORIGINALLY DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS THEN NO CAUSE TO CANCEL LIBERTY IN MOCAMEDES. HOWEVER WITH MPLA'S CALL ON JANUARY 31 FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE VISIT COUPLED WITH THE NATURAL EXUBERANCE THAT WOULD BE EXPECTED IN CELEBRATION OF THE TRANSFER OF INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT TO THE LIBERATION GROUPS WE DECIDED THE PROBABILITY OF AN INCIDENT WAS TOO GREAT TO GRANT SHORE LEAVE, AND WE SENT YOU OUR TELEGRAM 0128 OF JANUARY 31, RECOMMENDING AGAINST LIBERTY.

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00139 041054Z

3. THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND, WHICH NOW HAS ONLY A HANDFUL OF TROOPS IN MOCAMEDES, WAS EQUALLY FEARFUL OF PROBLEMS IF MPLA ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE VISIT. U.S. SAILORS ASHORE WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE THEIR SECURITY PROBLEMS AND GIVE MPLA A TARGET FOR INCIDENTS. THUS THE HIGH COMMAND ALSO DECIDED LATE ON JANUARY 31 AGAINST RECOMMENDING LIBERTY. WE UNDERSTAND THIS WAS CONVEYED TO YOU BY THE PORT CAPTAIN, AND BY OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEE AFTER HE CONSULTED WITH THE LOCAL ARMY COMMANDER.

4. I WAS DISTURBED TO READ IN YOUR 011722Z FEB 75 THAT EVEN AFTER RECEIVING OUR RECOMMENDATION YOU WERE ABOUT TO GRANT LIBERTY WHEN YOU LEARNED THAT THE PORTUGUESE RECOMMENDED AGAINST IT. I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT WHEN I DETERMINED LIBERTY WAS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE U.S. I DID NOT ARRIVE AT THE DECISION LIGHTLY. I WANTED THE VISIT TO GO OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT SO THAT NO REASON WOULD EXIST TO CANCEL FUTURE VISITS. THE SITUATION WAS AND IS EXPLOSIVE IN LUANDA AND ALTHOUGH MOCAMEDES IS FAR REMOVED FROM THE CENTER OF POLITICAL TURBULENCE, IT IS NOT IMMUNE. FUTURE VISITS ARE GOING TO BE EVEN MORE DELICATE AND I MUST BE ASSURED MY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE FOLLOWED.

5. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS VERY COOPERATIVE DURING THE LAST VISIT AND WAS WILLING TO BE SO THIS TIME. THEY ARRANGED A SHUTTLE BUS TO TRANSPORT THE SAILORS FROM THE PIER TO THE CITY. AS LEAVE WAS CANCELLED THE BUS WASN'T UTILIZED, BUT DUE TO THE LATENESS OF THE DECISIONS TO RESCIND LEAVE THE CITY GOVERNMENT MUST PAY FOR THE BUS AND ASKS THAT IT BE REIMBURSED. COST IS \$185.00. WE UNDERSTAND YOUR RELUCTANCE TO PAY THIS BILL BUT WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WILL PREJUDICE THE AMICABLE RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND MAKE THEM LESS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH FUTURE VISITS HERE. KILLORAN

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